

SECTION 10 HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Section 10 Enhancements – New Mexico:

Section 10 funding was used to enhance the program primarily by, (1) providing supplies and materials required for participation in the Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) Program, (2) implementing a second Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) Program in southern New Mexico, (3) hosting a newly implemented field day for all interested public, which would focus on educating the public on hunter education, and hunter safety, (4) Purchasing additional shooting simulation equipment to serve new audiences within New Mexico and, (5) developing and conducting a new trapper education component.

Section 4(c) and 10 Shooting Range Funds (Huntington Reservoir) – Indiana

Huntington Reservoir shooting range renovations took place with section 10 hunter education funds by upgrading from 4 to 33 rifle and pistol firing points. An increase from 4000 to 10,000 public shooting days is anticipated. The new range will be safer, more user friendly and more appropriate for family shooting sports activity thanks to these grants.

National Archery in the Schools Program – Minnesota:

The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) has taken hold in Minnesota, and shows signs of taking off like a prairie fire in April. The Division of Fish and Wildlife Hunter Recruitment and Retention Program has been coordinating the program since the summer of 2004. In its' first year, Minnesota has enrolled 50 NASP schools, making it the largest pilot program in the country. The DNR has facilitated the training of instructors at over 60 schools, camps and environmental learning centers that deliver the school-based introductory archery program, or that offer archery as part of their recreational programs. They have accomplished this by providing agency staff as trainers, as well as partnering with private sector archery organizations to provide the standardized training in the communities starting archery programs. Schools from every corner of the state, large and small, rural and urban, are participating. On average, every participating school is able to introduce 300 students to archery so an estimated 15,000 kids will be exposed to archery in the first year. Minnesota has a rich archery tradition, but only 1.4% of the state population bowhunt. However, in the first year of the Archery in



Schools Program, youth bowhunting license sales increased by 13%. Continued efforts in this realm show positive signs for the long-term stability of hunter numbers. Photo courtesy of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Etowah County Shooting Range – Alabama:

Using Hunter Education funds, Alabama acquired in fee title approximately 112 acres (\$149,880) and the associated facilities of the Etowah Outdoors private shooting range that it operates as a public facility. This acquisition improved the availability and public access to shooting ranges in Alabama.



After acquisition, the agency closed the range for modifications that included enhancements to the earthen berms, driveways, and various other shooting needs. Each rifle range was improved to meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The shooting range is located in Etowah County, the 5th most densely populated County in Alabama. This acquisition provided hunters and recreational shooters more opportunity to sight in sporting arms and enjoy recreational shooting sports. Additionally, the project provided direct economic benefits to the area through increased sales of equipment, and ammunition, components used in the shooting sports and hunting. A 200-yard rifle range was constructed at the Etowah Public Shooting Range adjacent to the 100-yard range with a concrete shooting pad, shooting benches, and a roof structure for shooters. The driveway and parking area were finished with crushed limestone. A concrete physically disabled parking area was constructed and the range met ADA standards.

Archery in the Schools and Archery Range Rehabilitation – Tennessee:

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TNWRA) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Archery Trade Association, Bowhunting Preservation Alliance and Arrowsport to use Section 4c/10 funds to promote archery and bowhunting opportunities for the State. Tennessee has scheduled rehabilitation on the following existing archery ranges: Cheatham Wildlife Management Area, John Sevier Hunter Education Center, Necedah Range (Pools Knob, Percy Priest Lake), Pine Creek (Hendersonville, Sumner County).



Tennessee also would like to construct new archery ranges at Tennessee Clay Target Complex, Stones River Hunter Education Complex, and Herb Parson Lake. Tennessee will offer the Bowhunter Education Program and Archery in Schools Program this year. The Archery in Schools Program will pilot in 25 schools this year. Pictures courtesy of TNWRA.



Owl Brook Hunter Education Center – New Hampshire:



The Owl Brook Hunter Education Center, located on 500 acres of land in Holderness, opened in 2004 and is the first facility of its kind in New Hampshire. Hunter Education Section 4(c) and Section 10 funds largely financed the construction and the Center's continuing operation and maintenance by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. In addition to

workshops and other special events, the Center's far-target practice archery area, 25-yard covered firing range for small-bore and muzzleloader training, shotgun training area, hunter skills trail, orienteering course, 14-target field archery course, and interpretive trails are open to the public from 8:00 am to 4:00

pm on weekdays. Photo courtesy of New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. Shooting range improvement grants are provided to several dozen firearms and archery ranges across North Dakota annually. These range grants benefit both small ranges in rural communities to large indoor facilities. The public range shown in the photo below, which is maintained by a local sportsmen's club, is keenly needed and greatly utilized in the major city of Fargo, ND. Target backstops and standards in addition to a shooting platform, benches and a canopy make shooting enjoyable and safe for the shooting enthusiasts. Providing these areas where citizens can practice shooting skills and become more responsible gun handlers and ethical harvesters of wildlife is essential for the future.

Section 10 Hunter Education Program – Montana:

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks fund a full-time staff person to conduct statewide seminars on firearm and shooting skills. The program has over 500 volunteer instructors, who are trained in workshops in the seven administrative regions, during the last year. In 2004, the Hunter Education Program launched an applied ethics hunter education program titled "Aiming for Excellence: The One Shot Hunter Ethics Program."

Section 10 Hunter Education Program – North Dakota:

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